

**HONORABLE CHARLES S. ABELL**  
**PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
**FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS**

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Charles S. Abell was appointed by the President as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on November 15, 2002. A Presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate, he is the primary Assistant of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness providing staff advice to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of the Defense for total force management as it relates to manpower; force structure; program integration; readiness; reserve component affairs; health affairs; training; and personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and quality of life matters.



Prior to his appointment as the Principal Deputy, Mr. Abell served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy beginning on May 8, 2001. In this capacity he was responsible for policies, plans and programs for military and civilian personnel management, including recruitment, education, career development, equal opportunity, compensation, recognition, quality of life and separation of all Department of Defense personnel.

Before joining the Department of Defense, Mr. Abell served as a professional staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Mr. Abell joined the Armed Services Committee staff in 1993, after a 26-year career in the Army. He was the lead staffer for the Subcommittee on Personnel, responsible for issues concerning military readiness and quality of life. His responsibilities also encompassed manpower; pay and compensation; and personnel management issues affecting active duty, reserve and civilian personnel; and organization and functions within the Department of Defense.

In recent years, Mr. Abell has had the primary Committee responsibility for a broad array of important initiatives aimed at restoring cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) equity for military retirees and survivors; improving the military health care program; upgrading Survivor Benefit Plan coverage; and enhancing pay, allowances and retirement programs for active duty and reserve members and TRICARE for Life, guaranteeing all retirees coverage within TRICARE and the military health care system. He also worked on codification of the homosexual conduct policy and legislation concerning the assignment of women within the Department of Defense.

Mr. Abell entered active duty service as an enlisted soldier and concluded his Army career by retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served two tours in Vietnam in various positions; Infantry Platoon Leader, Company Commander and Cobra Attack helicopter pilot. His career progressed through increasingly responsible positions at every level of Army operations. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, (2) Bronze Stars (Valor), Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), 14 Air Medals (two for Valor), the Army Commendation Medal (for Valor), and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Mr. Abell holds a Master of Science from Columbus University in Human Resource Management and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Tampa.

Mr. Abell and his wife, Cathy, reside in Fairfax, Virginia.